

The winners of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth & Environmental Science, Luna B. Leopold, of the University of California and M. Gordon Wolman, of The Johns Hopkins University, for advancing our understanding of how natural and human activities sculpt landscapes and influence landscape evolution. They developed the first comprehensive explanation of why rivers have different morphologies and how floodplains develop. Their contributions form the basis of process geomorphology, modern water resource management, and environmental assessment.

I regret to inform the Members that Dr. Leopold passed away in February. We express our sympathy to his family and join them in honoring his legacy.

Please also join me in honoring: The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, Fernando Nottebohm, of The Rockefeller University, for his discovery of neuronal replacement in the adult vertebrate brain, and the elaboration of the mechanism and choreography of this phenomenon; and also for showing that neuronal stem cells are the responsible agents, thereby generating a completely new approach to the quest for cures for brain injury and degenerative disease.

The winner of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Civil Engineering, Ray W. Clough, of the University of California, Berkeley, for revolutionizing engineering and scientific computation, and engineering design methods, through his contributions to the formulation and development of the finite element analysis method, and for his innovative leadership in establishing the field of earthquake engineering.

The winners of the 2006 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Physics, Giacinto Scoles, of Princeton University and Peter Toennies, of the Max Planck Institute, for the development of techniques to study molecules embedded in superfluid helium nanodroplets by high-resolution spectroscopy. These techniques allowed for the investigation of reactive and fragile molecules that could not be examined in other ways, and also enabled them to study superfluid helium with unprecedented precision, yielding insights into superfluidity at the nanoscale level.

Finally, we congratulate: The winner of the 2006 Bower Award and Prize for Scientific Achievement, Narain G. Hingorani, for the conceptualization and pioneering advancement of the Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System (FACTS) and Custom Power in electric power systems, and for outstanding technical contributions in High Voltage Direct Current Technology, which have enhanced the quality and security of the electric power system.

And, the Winner of the 2006 Bower Award for Business Leadership, Ted Turner, for his visionary leadership in the worlds of business and media, as well as his philanthropic commitment to the health of our planet and the well being of its people.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor these trailblazers. Their collective body of work has changed the course of modern progress and greatly improved the human condition. This year, as our Nation celebrates the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin and his legacy of industry, learning, patriotism and liberty, it is very fitting—in the spirit of Dr. Franklin—that we recognize the achievements of these individuals.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to recognize the proud past Asian Pacific Americans have woven into our history and the important contributions they offer our society today. I have the great honor of representing an incredibly diverse 12th Congressional district of California, where I am proud to say, we have the largest population of Filipinos outside the Philippines and one of the largest populations of Asian Pacific Americans in the entire United States.

We choose to recognize Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in May because of two anniversaries this month: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. Both are landmark events that contributed greatly to the formation of our country and prosperity.

The APA Community is a modern example of the American dream. Arriving as immigrants, and overcoming adversity, years of discrimination and at times shocking treatment at the hands of government and citizens alike, they have become one of the most successful and educated minority populations. Their unique contribution to areas such as business, science, technology, art and entertainment are unrivaled.

With 15 million residents, they are also the fastest growing population in our country and are estimated to reach 33 million by 2050. This hard working community is responsible for much of the success and development of our great nation. In this age of immigration debate, the APA community reminds us that we are ourselves a country of immigrants and the APA community represents what is best about America with their dedication and loyalty to fighting for freedom. As we remember how they have helped to enhance the quality of our communities and country, we should also ask how we could help to fight the challenges they face.

Although APA's have a high percentage of college graduates for a minority population, at 50 percent, they still face growing poverty issues. Although the Asian Pacific American community has been very successful many still face unfair problems connected with its status as a minority. When budget cuts to education and health care are made, the Asian American community suffers greatly.

Fourteen percent of the APA community has incomes at or below the poverty line. With gas prices and college tuitions rising, the last five years has seen 28,000 Asian Americans fall into poverty. 1.1 million small businesses are owned by APAs and have been hurt by reductions in funding for small businesses.

312,000 Asian Pacific Americans are veterans. Having defended our country, they deserve benefits such as health care, which have been cut for the fourth year in a row. Last year, in the 108th session of Congress, I cosponsored legislation that gave Filipino American veterans who were a legal alien or citizen, the same health and pension benefits that our other veterans receive. I will continue to fight for equal treatment in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as we congratulate Asian Pacific Americans for their accomplishments, we also recognize their struggles. Asian Pacific Americans contribute so much to our nation and we must ensure that this community is treated with the great respect it richly deserves. I urge all my colleagues to join me in honoring Asian Pacific Americans.

HONORING CAPTAIN CURTIS A. SPRINGER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Curtis A. Springer, Commander of Coast Guard Sector Baltimore, Maryland, since June 2003. As Commander, Captain Springer has worn many important hats. He is Captain of the Port for the Port of Baltimore, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, and Federal Maritime Security Coordinator for all Coast Guard operational missions performed in the Upper Chesapeake Bay and Washington, DC.

Despite this overwhelming portfolio of responsibilities, Captain Springer has served the citizens of Maryland and this Nation quietly, honorably, and exceptionally. Embodying all that the United States Coast Guard is, Captain Springer has accepted his many roles and worked with his team regardless of the resources provided. This is a man who has earned respect the old fashioned way, through hard work and a sense of duty.

Captain Springer and I have been through much together: from dealing with the impact of the storm surge to Hurricane Isabel, to the water taxi disaster in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to homeland security issues facing the Port of Baltimore. Through it all, Captain Springer has always ensured that the task at hand be completed at highest of standards.

Captain Springer is a unique leader with an innate sense of what needs to be done. As Captain of the Port, he is required to keep trouble away from our waterways before it arrives. It is critical to balance the economic realities of commerce and the impact on the private sector with the safety of the port. He has kept these often competing interests in delicate balance. Beyond his military and maritime duties, Captain Springer understands Baltimore is a working port. His wise decisions have positively affected the State of Maryland and the people who do business at the port.

Captain Springer received his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1982 after graduating from Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where in 1980 he received a bachelors of arts degree in education. He received a master of public administration from Michigan State University and a master of business administration from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Throughout his Coast Guard career, Captain Springer's assignments have included staff officer at Reserve Training Programs Division Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC; Deck Watch Officer and Operations Officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Mallow* in Honolulu, HI; Operations Officer aboard the Coast